



Wales HIGH SCHOOL

HEADTEACHER: MR. G. DI'IASIO

AAt/KE

June 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

Paraguayan Exchange 2020

You may know that Wales High School has a link with Colegio Aula Viva, a school in the Paraguayan capital of Asunción. This link has been in existence since 2004, with a number of exchange visits taking place both ways. We are extremely proud of not only the longevity of this link but also the fact that we remain the only school in the country to have a link with a school in Paraguay.

I am delighted to tell you that in 2020 the next exchange visit will take place. We intend to visit Paraguay in February 2020, with a return visit by the Paraguayans taking place in October 2020. Your child has expressed an interest in being involved in the exchange visit to Paraguay. Though it is not essential to be considered for a place on the trip to Paraguay, historically, most students have been involved in the return visit as well.

This exchange visit will provide a unique opportunity to experience first-hand a culture that is completely different to our own, whilst actively engaging with the Spanish language. Students will develop not only their confidence with the Spanish language, but will also develop their own confidence and self-esteem. Having personally been involved in a number of these trips, it has been immensely satisfying to see life-long friendships established and so many students grow in confidence.

Our **provisional dates** for the trip are 17 – 28 February 2020. These dates are subject to change depending on flight availability and price. Please note, however, that a large proportion of the trip is to take place during the February half term holiday. As this is an exchange visit, students will be hosted by the families of students from our partner school in their family home. The families are carefully selected and vetted by the Paraguay school. Colegio Aula Viva is a private fee-paying school and accommodation is of at least a comparable standard to that found in the UK.

During the visit to Paraguay, students will spend some time in lessons at Colegio Aula Viva during the week. We also intend to visit a state run public school where we will provide some English lessons. Finally, students will take part in a number of organised cultural visits in and around Asunción with the other students involved in the exchange. At the weekend, students will spend time with their host families, taking part in normal family activities. It is common for families to organise activities together over the weekend.

Students will be accompanied on the exchange visit by experienced staff from Wales High School who will be on-hand 24 hours a day over the duration of the trip.

As this is an exchange visit, the only costs involved in the trip are transport to and from London Heathrow airport and the flights themselves (connection in Sao Paulo, Brazil). The estimated overall cost of the transport is £950 per person. In addition to this, a small amount of spending money will be needed. **We have applied for a Grant from the British Council, which, if successful will help to cover some of these costs and we intend to complete a number of fundraising activities before the departure date to reduce the cost further. It is my intention to make this trip available to any student who wishes to take part and the cost should not be a prohibiting factor for anyone genuinely interested in taking part.** However, given the logistics involved in organising a trip to South America, I do require students to show a commitment to the trip and associated fund-raising activities. Therefore, a non-refundable deposit of £100 will be required no later than **Friday 28 June**.

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If, for any reason, you are not able to pay the deposit by this date but would like to your child to take part, please let me know in confidence as it will be possible to set-up a payment plan with the school to enable this to be paid in instalments. Details regarding further payments will be communicated in September, when again, a payment plan can be arranged if needed.

Please note that students will require their own passport (valid for at least 6 months after the return date) in order to be able to take part.

I am sure that you will agree that this is a truly exciting opportunity for your child and will benefit them not only academically but socially. If you would like your child to be considered for a place on the trip, please complete the reply slip below and return it to the Finance Office no later than Friday 28 June. Cheques should be made payable to Wales High School (please write your child's name and 'Paraguayan Exchange' on the back). Cash should be placed in a sealed envelope (please write 'Paraguayan Exchange' on the front). You will also be able to pay online; please indicate on the reply slip below if you wish to pay this way. If you wish to set up a payment plan, please indicate this below, along with your contact details.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by email (aat@waleshigh.com) or on the school number.

Yours sincerely

A Atkins

Mr A Atkins
Director of Modern Foreign Languages

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Paraguayan Exchange 2020

I would like my child _____ of TG _____ to take part in the Paraguayan Exchange in February 2020.

I understand that a non-refundable deposit of £100 is required by 28 June and that my child will require a valid Passport for the duration of the trip (plus six months after).

Please indicate below your chosen payment method:

- I enclose a cheque for £100.
- I enclose £100 cash.
- I wish to pay online. I understand this will need to be paid by 28 June.
- I wish to set-up a payment plan. (Please contact me by phone/email to discuss.)

Signed: _____ (Parent/Guardian) Date: _____

Please Return this Form to the Finance Office by 28 June 2019